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THUNDERSTORMS BRING MUCH NEEDED MOISTURE TO PARTS OF TENNESSEE

Scattered showers and thunderstorms pushed through the Volunteer State last week bringing much needed rainfall to many locations. Double crop soybeans, late corn, and late tobacco in these areas all benefitted from the moisture. Unfortunately, some locations received little to no rain from these storms. Soybean conditions across the State improved last week with the majority rated in good-to-fair condition. As of Sunday, crop progress was running slightly ahead of the five-year average with 70 percent blooming and 37 percent setting pods. The State’s cotton crop continues to be rated in mostly good- to-fair condition with 95 percent having set bolls. Boll weevil eradication spraying got underway last week in the western part of the State. Tobacco growers have begun harvesting their early crop. Currently, 10 percent of the burley, 6 percent of the dark air-cured and 9 percent of the dark fire-cured have been harvested. A few Middle Tennessee counties reported isolated damage to tobacco fields Thursday night due to strong thunderstorms in that area. Diseases such as Black Shank and Blue Mold continue to be reported, but damage has been fairly light thus far. The State’s cattle herd is currently rated in good-to-fair condition although a few farmers have been forced to feed hay and haul water to their animals. Other agricultural activities taking place last week included clipping pastures, topping tobacco, and scouting grain sorghum for insects. There were 5 days considered suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated, 6 percent very short, 20 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 10 percent very short, 32 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through August 6, 2000					CROP CONDITION: On August 4, 2000					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	1999	Five Year Avg.	Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Corn - Dough	81	63	85	78	Corn	4	9	23	41	23
Corn - Dent	35	N/A	48	42	Soybeans	3	9	27	46	15
Corn - Mature	5	N/A	10	5	Cotton	0	2	28	55	15
Corn Silage - Harvested	17	7	20	10	Pastures	7	17	35	36	5
Soybeans - Blooming	70	55	73	61	Tobacco	4	11	27	48	10
Soybeans - Setting Pods	37	28	47	33	Cattle	1	7	22	58	12
Cotton - Setting Bolls	95	87	97	96						
Tobacco - Topped	64	50	66	53						
Burley - Harvested	10	N/A	10	5						
Dark Air - Harvested	6	N/A	8	4						
Dark Fire - Harvested	9	N/A	10	5						

**CORN:** The State’s corn crop continues to progress at a normal pace with 5 percent mature. Harvest should begin within the next few weeks if conditions remain favorable. As of Sunday, 17 percent of the acreage used as silage had been harvested, slightly behind last year but ahead of the five-year average. Exceptionally dry conditions have forced some producers to begin harvesting silage earlier than normal.

**SOYBEANS:** Recent rains have greatly benefitted the State’s soybean crop, but weeds have also taken advantage of the recent moisture. As a result, producers are busy making herbicide applications to double crop and late planted soybeans. A few growers continue to treat for grasshoppers in some no-till fields.

**TOBACCO:** Growers continued topping their fields last week while a few began harvesting the crop. As of Sunday, harvest was running slightly ahead of normal for the State’s three major types.

**COTTON:** Boll weevil eradication spraying was in full swing last week in Region 2. Bollworms have become a problem in some areas and growers are taken corrective measures.

**PASTURES & HAY:** Pastures are beginning to green up in areas that have received rain recently and most are currently rated in good-to-fair condition. A small amount of hay was cut last week but many decided to hold off due to the constant threat of rain.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION For week ending: 08/06/00 (with comparisons)										
LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending 08/06/00				Current Week	Rain	Current	Departure	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	08/06/00	Days	Since April 1	From Normal	Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	96	65	79	+2	0.67	3	16.56	-2.49	1649	+65
Bristol	86	62	74	-2	0.92	6	17.03	+1.34	1123	+67
Brownsville_TN	94	69	80	+0	0.40	3	15.68	-3.39	1687	+302
Chattanooga	91	68	80	+1	1.40	6	19.33	+1.58	1756	+292
Clarksville_Sew	95	68	80	+2	2.11	5	21.71	+4.17	1628	+234
Cookeville	88	65	75	-2	2.89	7	22.37	+1.90	1255	+397
Covington	96	69	80	+1	1.91	3	18.25	-0.36	1706	+90
Crossville_AP	84	64	74	+0	1.92	7	22.90	+2.88	1158	+177
Dickson_AG	91	66	77	-1	1.66	3	18.60	-0.90	1354	-109
Dover_1W	91	67	77	+1	2.36	5	21.10	+2.50	1419	+191
Dyersburg	93	68	80	+0	0.04	3	18.86	+0.46	1654	-67
Erwin_1W	87	62	74	+2	1.32	7	20.84	+0.92	1106	-159
Huntingdon_Wate	91	62	76	-3	1.91	4	17.98	-0.99	1243	-74
Jackson_AG	92	67	79	+0	1.83	4	16.95	-2.48	1590	+60
Kingston_AG	88	68	77	+2	0.75	5	19.49	-1.21	1460	+324
Knoxville_AP	87	66	76	-2	0.90	5	22.37	+5.19	1460	+195
Lewisburg	91	64	78	+2	1.07	4	18.20	-1.89	1330	+47
Lexington_TN	92	65	79	+0	0.81	3	18.91	+0.22	1556	+634
Linden	91	65	78	+1	0.81	2	17.12	-2.74	1397	+102
Martin	95	68	80	+2	0.20	4	19.39	-0.37	1534	+62
Mc_Minnville_Tn	91	64	77	-1	1.76	5	18.37	-0.86	1416	-220
Memphis_AG	96	69	81	-2	1.27	2	15.46	-2.93	1749	-167
Milan	94	59	76	-2	0.54	5	15.50	-4.45	1330	-107
Murfreesboro_5N	88	66	77	-2	1.64	6	21.17	+1.88	1381	-239
Nashville	90	68	79	-1	0.48	4	18.20	+0.75	1643	+115
Newcomb	86	66	75	+3	3.29	6	20.15	-0.32	1152	+234
Oneida	85	64	74	+2	1.18	5	20.92	+0.45	1065	-302
Pikeville	93	64	77	+2	0.83	6	15.55	-2.72	1374	+118
Portland_TN	89	67	77	+0	3.84	5	19.42	+0.40	1418	+165
Pulaski_Water_P	90	67	79	-1	1.45	4	21.92	+2.98	1460	-78
Savannah_6SW	95	67	79	+0	0.52	5	16.02	-4.17	1769	+433
Sparta_TN	91	65	76	+0	4.49	6	25.37	+5.38	1378	+297
Springfield	90	65	77	+1	1.38	3	19.67	+1.40	1355	+85
Springhill	90	65	78	+1	1.26	4	17.86	-2.14	1495	+217
Union_City	93	66	79	+2	0.21	3	18.55	-0.34	1432	-8

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
 Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

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